

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SW, NO, EIND

SUBJECT: NORWAY CAUTIOUSLY SUGGESTS EXCHANGE OF GAS AND OIL
FOR SWEDISH INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION

1. AT MEETING OF NORDIC COUNCIL IN STOCKHOLM
FEBRUARY 17, NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER TRYGVE BRATTELI
STATE "NORWAY IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER HOW OUR OIL
RESOURCES MAY BE UTILIZED TO BENEFIT ALSO OTHER NORDIC
NATIONS"; HE DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO POSSIBILITY
OF REACHING BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SWEDEN.
BRATTELI INDICATED THAT IT WILL NOT BE UNTIL
NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PRESENTED DOCUMENT IN SOME
WEEKS' TIME ON CONTINUED ACTIVITY ON CONTINENTAL
SHELF THAT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE
ON NORDIC OIL POLICY. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, HE MADE
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CLEAR THAT NORWAY DESIRED SOME FORM OF COORDINATION

AMONG NORDIC COUNTRIES IN AREA OF PETROLEUM REFINING, IN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY, AND ALSO IN SPHERE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. SWEDES, HE SUGGESTED, COULD PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY, MANPOWER, CAPITAL AND ORE IN RETURN FOR NORWEGIAN ENERGY RESOURCES.

2. SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME INTERPRETED BRATTELI STATEMENT AS "VERY SIGNIFICANT". NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS IN NORDIC COUNCIL, HE SAID, HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED BY SWEDEN "WITH CONSIDERABLE SUSPENSE". SWEDISH ATTITUDE, PALME ADDED, IS WHOLLY POSITIVE TOWARD KIND OF COLLABORATION OUTLINED BY BRATTELI. HE STRESSED SWEDEN'S INTEREST IN PURCHASING LARGE QUANTITIES OF OIL AND GAS FROM NORWAY. SWEDEN'S PREPAREDNESS TO COOPERATE WITH NORWAY, HE SAID, ALSO EXTENDED TO NUCLEAR FIELD.

3. IN INTERVIEW QUOTED IN STOCKHOLM DAILY SVENSKA DAGBLADET FEBRUARY 19, NORWEGIAN FINANCE MINISTER PER KLEPPE ELABORATED, DEFINING LIMITS OF SWEDISH - NORWEGIAN COLLABORATION. HE SAID COLLABORATION REFERRED TO BY BRATTELI WAS TO BE SEEN AS LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT, THAT NO SUBSTANTIVE PLANS FOR IT PRESENTLY EXISTED, AND THAT THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY NORWEGIAN OIL REACHING SWEDEN BEFORE 1980. "PETROLEUM DEPOSITS IN NORWEGIAN PART OF NORTH SEA AS WELL AS THEIR EXPLOITATION ARE EXCLUSIVELY NORWEGIAN AFFAIR", KLEPPE CONTINUED. "THIS PUTS NORWAY IN A NEGOTIATORY POSITION -- THAT MUCH IS CLEAR -- BUT SWEDES HOLD GOOD CARDS AND THING TO DO NOW IS TO SEE WHAT USE CAN BE MADE OF THEM". ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED KLEPPE AS BEING CAUTIOUS ABOUT COMMITTING HIMSELF ON POSSIBLE SWEDISH PURCHASES OF NORWEGIAN OIL AND GAS. PHYSICAL OBSTACLE OF UNDERSEA NORWEGIAN TRENCH MUST BE OVERCOME, HE EXPLAINED. (NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN ARE REPORTEDLY DEMANDING THAT PIPELINES FOLLOW SEABED.)

4. KLEPPE DID NOT CONSIDER THAT INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN NORWAY AND SWEDEN SHOULD HINGE SOLELY ON OIL. NORWAY, HE SAID AS AN EXAMPLE, HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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A STRONG INTEREST IN NORTH SWEDISH ORE. LARGE AMOUNTS, HE NOTED, ARE SHIPPED THROUGH NARVIK. "LOOKING AHEAD FROM THIS ANGLE, IT MIGHT BE REASONABLE TO DISCUSS COORDINATION SCANDINAVIAN STEEL MILL PLANS."

5. COMMENT. KLEPPE'S REMARKS WERE HONORABLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT SWEDISH HOPES FROM EXCEEDING NORWEGIAN INTENTIONS. SWEDEN, OBVIOUSLY, IS MOST

EAGER FOR AFFAIR WITH NORWAY THAT WOULD GUARANTEE HER
A FRIENDLY AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF CRUDE OIL AND
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. WE CAN EXPECT SWEDEN TO SOLLOW
UP VIGOROUSLY OPENING BRATTELI HAS GIVEN.
OLSEN

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